

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract with the following changes

An assay for assessing the risk of disease in an individual, wherein ~~said~~ the assay comprises the steps of isolating a population of cells from normal tissue of ~~said~~ the individual, and quantitatively determining the frequency of epimutation of a particular gene in ~~said~~ the population of cells, wherein the epimutation of ~~said~~ the gene is associated with ~~said~~ the disease and ~~said~~ the gene is other than one that is subject to normal parent of origin-specific expression. Preferably, the epimutation is DNA methylation of a tumor ~~suppressor~~ suppressor gene such as *hMLH1*, *hMSH2*, *APC 1A*, *APC 1B*, and *p16*.